

**Amendment and Response**

Applicant: Jerome D. Brown et al.  
Serial No.: 10/681,851  
Filed: October 8, 2003  
Docket No.: 10386US01

Title: TAPE REEL ASSEMBLY WITH STIFF WINDING SURFACE FOR A TAPE DRIVE SYSTEM

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**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 15-25.

Please add claims 37-44.

1. (Original) A tape reel assembly for use in a tape drive system for winding and unwinding a storage tape, the tape reel assembly comprising:

a hub defining an inner surface and a tape winding surface, at least a portion of the hub being made of plastic;

wherein the tape winding surface has an effective radial modulus of greater than 0.3 million pounds-per-square-inch.

2. (Withdrawn) The tape reel assembly of claim 1, wherein the hub includes a metal insert that forms at least a portion of the tape winding surface.

3. (Withdrawn) The tape reel assembly of claim 2, wherein the metal insert is an annular ring of aluminum.

4. (Withdrawn) The tape reel assembly of claim 3, wherein the annular ring has a thickness in a range of approximately 0.005 inch to approximately 0.250 inch.

5. (Withdrawn) The tape reel assembly of claim 3, wherein the annular ring has a thickness of approximately 0.050 inch.

6. (Withdrawn) The tape reel assembly of claim 1, wherein the hub is a glass-filled polymer.

7. (Withdrawn) The tape reel assembly of claim 6, wherein the hub is 30% glass-filled styrene acrylonitrile.

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8. (Withdrawn) The tape reel assembly of claim 7, wherein the tape reel assembly further includes:

a first reel section defining a first core portion and an upper flange; and  
a second reel section defining a second core portion and a lower flange;  
wherein upon final assembly, the first core portion and the second core portion combine  
to define the hub.

9. (Original) The tape reel assembly of claim 1, wherein the hub includes a metal insert that  
forms at least a portion of the inner surface.

10. (Previously Presented) The tape reel assembly of claim 9, wherein the metal insert  
includes an annular ring of steel.

11. (Original) The tape reel assembly of claim 9, wherein the metal insert is a cup shaped  
annulus that defines a drive washer and a drive bore.

12. (Withdrawn) The tape reel assembly of claim 1, wherein the hub includes:  
a core of plastic between the inner surface and the tape winding surface; and  
a metal insert disposed within the core.

13. (Withdrawn) The tape reel assembly of claim 12, wherein the metal insert is an annular  
ring of metal.

14. (Original) The tape reel assembly of claim 1, wherein the tape reel assembly further  
includes:

an upper flange and a lower flange, the upper and lower flanges extending in a radial  
fashion from opposing sides of the hub, respectively.

15-25. (Canceled)

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26. (Original) A tape reel assembly for use in a tape drive system for winding and unwinding a storage tape, the tape reel assembly comprising:

a hub including a core and a backbone that combine to define an inner surface and a tape winding surface, at least a portion of the hub being made of plastic; wherein at least a portion of the inner surface is metal.

27. (Original) The tape reel assembly of claim 26, wherein the tape winding surface has an effective radial modulus of greater than 0.3 million pounds-per-square-inch.

28. (Original) The tape reel assembly of claim 26, wherein the tape winding surface has an effective radial modulus of approximately 1.0 million pounds-per-square-inch.

29. (Original) The tape reel assembly of claim 26, wherein the backbone defines a drive bore separated from the inner surface by a distance of approximately 0.5 inch.

30. (Original) The tape reel assembly of claim 26, wherein the backbone is a cup shaped annulus comprised of steel.

31. (Original) The tape reel assembly of claim 26, wherein the tape reel assembly further includes:

an upper flange and a lower flange, the upper and lower flanges extending in a radial fashion from opposing sides of the hub, respectively.

32. (Withdrawn) A tape reel assembly for use in a tape drive system for winding and unwinding a storage tape, the tape reel assembly comprising:

a hub defining an inner surface and a tape winding surface, the hub including:  
a plastic core disposed between the inner surface and the tape winding surface; and  
a metal annulus disposed within the core.

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33. (Withdrawn) The tape reel assembly of claim 32, wherein the tape winding surface has an effective radial modulus of greater than 0.3 million pounds-per-square-inch.

34. (Withdrawn) The tape reel assembly of claim 32, wherein the tape winding surface has an effective radial modulus of approximately 0.9 million pounds-per-square-inch.

35. (Original) A tape reel assembly for use in a tape drive system for winding and unwinding storage tape, the tape reel assembly comprising:

a hub defining an inner surface and a tape winding surface, at least a portion of the hub being made of plastic; and  
means for configuring the tape winding surface to have an effective radial modulus of greater than 0.3 million pounds-per-square-inch.

36. (Withdrawn) A data storage tape cartridge comprising:

a housing defining an enclosed region;  
at least one tape reel assembly rotatably disposed within the enclosed region and including:  
a hub defining an inner surface and a tape winding surface; and  
a storage tape wound about the tape winding surface of the hub;  
wherein winding of the storage tape onto the hub applies a stress that deflects the tape winding surface, and further wherein the deflection of the tape winding surface resulting from the applied stress corresponds to an effective radial modulus of the tape winding surface of greater than 0.3 million pounds-per-square-inch.

37. (New) A tape reel assembly for use in a tape drive system for winding and unwinding a storage tape, the tape reel assembly comprising:

a hub defining an inner surface and a tape winding surface, the inner surface comprising a metal backbone, and at least a portion of the hub being made of plastic;

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wherein the tape winding surface has an effective radial modulus of greater than 0.3 million pounds-per-square-inch.

38. (New) The tape reel assembly of claim 37, wherein the metal backbone defines a drive washer and a drive bore.

39. (New) The tape reel assembly of claim 37, wherein the hub includes a plastic core defining the tape winding surface.

40. (New) The tape reel assembly of claim 37, wherein the backbone defines a cup shaped annular insert including an annular wall substantially parallel to the tape winding surface.

41. (New) A tape reel assembly for use in a tape drive system for winding and unwinding a storage tape, the tape reel assembly comprising:

a hub including:

a metal backbone defining an inner surface; and  
a plastic core coupled to the backbone and defining a tape winding surface.

42. (New) The tape reel assembly of claim 41, wherein the metal backbone is a metal cup shaped annular backbone defining a drive washer and a drive bore.

43. (New) The tape reel assembly of claim 42, wherein the drive washer and the drive bore are located in a plane exterior to the plastic core.

44. (New) The tape reel assembly of claim 41, wherein the metal backbone is an insert integrally formed with the plastic core.